

SENATOR PETERSON: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: If a man chooses to forego federal employment or an appointment to the federal boards, should we, the State of Nebraska, help the Selective Service System discriminate against them like this? Shouldn't that be up to a young man's own choice? If a man chooses to be federally prosecuted, rather than register, should we aid and abet the federal government? How many other times this year has Big Brother, the federal government, come to us and said, spy on our citizens, report everything the Nebraska citizens do to Big Brother? You may think that Marge Higgins is in favor of draft dodging. My brother served in the South Pacific in the Second World War. My husband was a volunteer for that elite corps known as the Airborne Rangers. My three brothers-in-law served in the Second World War. One of them lied about his age, got into the Marines at the age of 16, and spent the entire war in a Japanese prison camp after he was captured on Wake Island. My father lied about his age and went in when he was over 38, into the Army. Two of my uncles were old enough and they volunteered. I do not come from a family of draft dodgers, but I do believe this, that our young men should have the decision to make themselves, and I do not believe the poppycock that between the age of 18 and 26 any young man in this country will not be aware he has to register to vote. If you believe that, you believe his parents never tell him anything. You believe he never watches television where they run these public service announcements saying, thou must register with your government if you are between the age of 18 and 26? A young man could be that ignorant for 8 straight years of his life? If you believe that, then you would have to believe that he doesn't register for the draft and he will be forever sorry that he can't work for Big Brother, or that Big Brother will never give an appointment to him on a board or a commission.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Don't you think that if he goes to college and he applies for a student loan, the first thing they are going to ask him is, are you registered with your Selective Service System, because if you are not, you can't have a student loan?

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Then he will make the choice. Do I want a student loan, or do I choose not to register for the draft?